

Minutes of Tuesday, December 6, 2011, CTEC Meeting

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:15 pm on Tuesday, December 6, 2011, at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members K. Abbott, L. Caprioglio, S. Carroll, P. Collington, F. Esposito, S. Krishnan, D. Stillinger and Township Liaison Kevin Tubbs.

CTEC'S PURPOSE: to undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT -- The meeting schedule for 2011 is posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building and mentioned on the Chatham Township website at www.chathamtownship.org. It has been sent to the Chatham Courier and Daily Record newspapers. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings, join the discussions and participate in projects.

The Chatham Township Environmental Commission's goal is to provide a responsible environmental viewpoint to Township committees and boards and to undertake projects with a strong educational component in order to inform officials and residents about constructive actions that can be taken to preserve the environment.

CTEC and Green Team minutes from October 4, 2011 were approved, motioned by L. Caprioglio and 2nd by F. Esposito, with all in favor.

CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETING DATES FOR 2011 AND JANUARY 2012.

The remaining meeting on the current calendar is Tuesday, Jan 10, 2012 at the municipal building at 7:15 PM.

CTEC BUSINESS

F. Esposito motion to approve the meeting dates for 2012 and January 2013 and P. Collington 2nd, with all in favor. Every first Tuesday except second Tuesday in January 2013. The dates would be February 7, March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5, no meeting in July, August 7, September 4, October 2, November 6, December 4 in 2012 and January 8 in 2013.

GREEN TEAM MEETING S. Carroll, Green Team Chair

Green Team meeting 7:27 – 8:00 PM.

11/16 NJ League of Municipalities attendance at conference. – P. Collington did a presentation on composting.

11/19 Farmers Market – Operation Porch Light – which is the hand out of energy efficient light bulbs, NJ Green Energy and Green Challenge handouts. This table was shared with Chatham Borough.

Reviewed the web version of “Take the Green Challenge” survey form and “survey result” spreadsheet report.

Reviewed Sustainable Jersey action status and discussion of obtaining silver and bronze status. F. Esposito motioned to “obtain bronze status” and L. Caprioglio 2nd, with all in favor.

REVISED STEEP SLOPES ORDINANCE – Reviewed and discussed the proposed revisions of the steep slope ordinance. This revision is to eliminate unnecessary applications to the planning board. This proposal is at the subcommittee level with the planning board. The planning board subcommittee is still researching the limits that are being proposed. Disturbances of 30% or less will be allowed, with some exceptions. The commission members agreed to assist Lou in researching limitations with steep slopes. Discussion will continue at the next meeting.

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

NEW. Fuller, 769 Shunpike Road, B 144 L20. 9-18-11. Application to NJDEP for General Permit for dredging of an existing pond, removal of herbaceous vegetation. Property is on the corner of Shunpike and Loantaka Way. Plans show wetlands being protected, dredging material being kept on the property. Suggest no comment required.

PENDING. Currie, 43 Susan Drive, B 20 L 15. 7-22-11. Application to Board of Adjustment for variance for proposed single family dwelling on steep slopes. This parcel is on the lower side of the road near where a previous construction project caused damage to downslope neighbors. Site visit was Sat. Dec. 3, applicant or representatives did not attend. Applicant may not pursue application.

PENDING. LONGVIEW/FENIX. 2-2-11. Block 32 Lots 2, 6 and 8, Block 33, Lots 1, 14, 17 and 20. Ronald Gunn. Longview Road. R-3 (half-acre) zone. Application to Planning Board for 7 lot major subdivision on Longview Road.

Propose to subdivide existing upper 4 lots into 7 lots. Requesting C(2) hardship variances for disturbance of steep slopes, height of structural retaining walls. Three of the current 4 upper lots have 25% slopes on less than a fifth of the lot. Proposed lots will be sewerred; there is a utility easement across an off-site lower lot to provide sewer access. Two nearby homes are on septic and one home is on well water. 156 trees over 12" in diameter including at least 9 of 30" or more in diameter are proposed to be removed. Site visit was Sat. Dec. 3.

PENDING. D'onofrio, 29 Candace Lane, B 38 L 31. 8-26-11. Application to Board of Adjustment for rear yard setback to construct an addition. Steep slopes. Waiting for completeness review.

PENDING. Russo, B 39 L 30, 112 Candace Lane. 7-27-11. Application to Board of Adjustment for variance for rear yard setback to construct a deck. There is a conservation easement on the steep slopes. Waiting for completeness review.

PENDING. PSE&G expansion of power line right-of-way. 6-13-11, application to NJDEP for freshwater wetlands general permit to do construction work along the ROW. Memo to NJDEP with a similar memo to NJBPU was mailed and also was presented at the public hearing on Thursday, September 8, 2011.

CLOSED. FAIRMOUNT AVENUE & JOHNSON DRIVE. 3-4-11. Block 38, Lots 44 & 45. Primavera Parkview, LLC. R-3 (half-acre) zone. Application to Planning Board for 2 lot minor subdivision on corner of Fairmount and Johnson. Currently one house on the two lots. Propose to change lot lines so one lot fronts on Johnson Drive and one on Fairmount instead of both fronting on Fairmount as they do now. Application approved, no conservation easement.

PENDING. Rolling Knolls Superfund site at the end of Britten Road. No new information.

Planning Board report. L. Caprioglio – reviewed proposed revised steep slope ordinance.

Township Committee report. K. Tubbs. I&I study – Infiltration and Inflow study of groundwater and stormwater entering into dedicated wastewater/sanitary sewer systems is being conducted for Tanglewood and WPC2 pump stations.

Open Space Committee report. n/a Don Travisano has resigned.

Community Education and Outreach Committee report. P. Collington, Chair. Closed out grant applications; composting program successfully continues - 3 communities 2 in NJ & 1 in CA duplicated program; designed and distributed education & outreach materials; Eco Film held December 1; presentation by Pat Collington at League of Municipalities. (see website) <http://www.njslom.org/96thconf/presentations.html>

Communications Committee report. F. Esposito, D. Travisano, P. Collington. – revising CTEC website

Recycling Committee report. Report on recycling at Heritage Green & Briarwood condo meeting on 11-30-11. At the 11/30/11 meeting Kathy Abbott and Frank Esposito met with representatives from MCMUA and the condo management company. Education measures planned are increased signage about single stream recycling at the recycling/garbage sheds, and a MCMUA presentation at a March open condo association meeting. The condo's are not aware and/or not recycling all plastic and additional items that can be recycled. If these additional items are recycled, this could possibly reduce garbage pick-up to once a week during certain seasons, in turn save money on garbage collection. Recycling needs to be encouraged at the condos. A recycling video and slide presentation for website and fios channel is in the making.

DISCUSSION/ACTIONS

- Model resolution to support "Safe Routes to School". Kathy Abbott to draft letter from CTEC to township committee (subject to edits) supporting adoption of model resolution. S. Krishnan motioned to approve draft letter and F. Esposito 2nd, with all in favor.
- Funding half the Eco Film series. Cindy Stephans spent a few hundred dollars out of her own pocket for the licensing fees for this whole year.
- Letter sent to Mayor Hagner commending Morris E. Enyeart (Township Webmaster-City Connections LLC) and Tom Salvas (Manager-Chatham Township Governmental Access TV / Electronic Community Bulletin Board) for their outstanding work and tremendous help in greatly improving CTEC's website, archiving, and public service communications.
- F. Esposito motioned to approved CTEC memo to Senator Menendez urging him to support full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and P. Collington 2nd, with all in favor. The memo was e-mailed to Senator Mendendez's office on 10-19-11 after an informal poll of CTEC members by e-mail indicated that everyone was in favor of sending the memo and time for passage of the bill was getting short.
- P. Collington was a presenter at a workshop at the ANJEC annual conference on Oct. 15. She discussed the Rocket composter.

- NRI revision. NRI Committee met on 9-6-11, 10-8-11, 10-24-11, 11-14-11 and will meeting on 12-12-11. Subcommittee will do most of the updating with volunteers. All welcome to participate. S. Carroll, S. Krishnan, D. Stillinger, M. Palmer.
- Model conservation easement agreement was adopted by the Township Committee. It gives the Township more authority to remedy violations of conservation easements and permits less disturbance of the easements. The ordinance is on the Township web site. D. Stillinger, L. Caprioglio.
- Discussion of farming in a residential neighborhood next to a SWRPA stream. PB to discuss on 12/19/11. Many concerns regarding mowing buffer, sediment, and Loantaka Brook. DEP often reduces buffer by half.
- A memo was submitted to the Township Committee asking for open space tax funds to clean up an old household trash dump, now called the Green Village Pond Conservation Area, on Township property on Green Village Road to make possible a future nature trail. Project will be continued. D. Stillinger.
- PSE&G's proposed power line upgrade. About 2.5 miles are in Chatham Township. Of the 15 towns along the route Chatham Township has the second-longest run, after Livingston's 10 miles. Berkeley Heights has about 2 miles. Please let D. Stillinger know if you see contractors working in the ROW along with their company name and anything else you think is important.

RECENT LETTERS SENT

- October 2011 – Transco – Standard memo to NJSEP commenting on granting permit for Transco to do work within the right of way.
- September 2011. Memos to NJBPU and NJDEP urging caution in granting permits to PSE&G for upgrade construction, letter to NJDEP commenting on LOI application for Block 144, Lot 39.03.

EVENTS

- SEAMLESS, every first Tuesday at 8 AM. Madison Library.

MAIL RECEIVED

- Minutes of meetings of Chatham Borough and Long Hill Environmental Commissions.
- Newsletters and flyers.

ADJOURN 9:54 PM

Carolyn Scannelli